

Wroblewski entered the race for the County Legislature and took office in January 2004. Since his election to the legislature, Tim served as a strong voice on behalf of Erie County's taxpayers. Tim's commitment to his constituency was admirable, and I have always valued his friendship, both on a personal as well as a professional level.

The residents of the towns of West Seneca and South Cheektowaga are better for the service provided to them by Tim Wroblewski, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a responsible and effective public official.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JORDAN ROWAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate an extraordinary employee of mine who is unfortunately leaving our office this Thursday, November 17, 2005. Ms. Jordan Rowan will be leaving our office to join her future husband, Mr. Coleman Fannin, in Dayton, OH, as well as to pursue other professional opportunities.

Jordan joined my office in fall 2003 as an intern and through her hard work, she advanced to legislative assistant. Among her many areas, she handled environmental issues for me. We share a great love for the environment and for its preservation. Therefore, she has been an indispensable asset to me as the Congress has debated many critical environmental bills this year.

Over the 2 years that she has worked for me, she also has gained the necessary skill of deciphering my cryptic questions with even vaguer clues. Any time I needed her to find an obscure factoid, I could readily rely upon her.

She has a big empathetic heart that, many times, has helped to ground myself and others in my office when a larger perspective was greatly needed. In fact, when most other brides choose to register for wedding gifts to supplement their new lives, she wanted to help others by registering with Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock to families in developing countries. Like Heifer International, she believes in giving but giving with the purpose of empowering others to better themselves economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Jordan Rowan as she moves on to the next important stage of her life. While exemplifying professionalism and integrity, Jordan has not only brightened my office but also has assisted me legislatively on many important issues. I am proud to have had her work in my office and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MIKE METZLER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Mike Metzler of Alton, Ill. De-

tective Metzler, a 10-year veteran of the Alton Police Department, was recently awarded the Pastor Paul-Gerhard Braune Award for his work on the department's Crisis Intervention Team, CIT. This State-level award is from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois.

CIT officers, like Detective Metzler, respond to situations concerning people in a crisis. Detective Metzler has used his training at a CIT office to prevent individuals from committing suicide and has also helped to bring calm to other dangerous situations.

Aside from his work as a CIT officer, he also serves as the Alton public school police-school liaison. As well, he travels to other States to train officers about crisis intervention.

I am pleased to thank Detective Metzler for his outstanding work. I congratulate him on his award.

HONORING SUEY GEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of World War II veteran Suey W. Gee of Oakland, CA. This weekend Mr. Gee celebrates his 79th birthday, his 80th birthday according to the Chinese lunar calendar. On this special occasion his friends and family will gather to honor him for the immeasurable contributions he has made not only to their lives, but also to our country.

Suey W. Gee was born in Canton, China on November 19, 1926. As a youth, he emigrated to the United States with his father to find work and help support his family back in China. In March 1945, at the age of 19, he enlisted into the U.S. Army to aid his newly adopted country during World War II. He served in the 128th infantry and trained as an anti-aircraft gunner. His unit was ultimately deployed to Hiroshima, Nakasaki and Okinawa following the atomic bombings that destroyed those cities, where he served as part of the occupation army and helped to facilitate the disarmament of Japan.

Mr. Gee was honorably discharged from military service on November 22, 1946. Though Mr. Gee was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, due to the metal shortage during the war era, in addition to the fact that he moved around frequently in search of work, he did not receive his medals at that time.

In 1948, Mr. Gee traveled back to China where he married Sue King Gee, and they subsequently returned to the U.S. together. Mr. Gee became a proud citizen of the United States of America on September 18, 1957, and Mrs. Gee became a citizen soon after.

Like many immigrant families who come to America, Mr. and Mrs. Gee faced many obstacles, overcoming poverty, hardship and discrimination as they persevered toward achieving their dreams. They worked in the food service, cannery and sewing industry for over 55 years, remaining steadfastly committed to providing greater opportunities for their children than what they had themselves. Married

for over 58 years, Mr. and Mrs. Gee have three daughters and one son, all of whom are currently living or working in the city of Oakland as active and productive members of our community.

Mr. Gee is retired now and spends his time keeping up with local and national politics. At almost 80 years old, he still votes regularly and remains civically engaged in the country that he served in the U.S. Army more than 60 years ago.

On this very special occasion, Mr. Gee's friends and family will come together not only to celebrate his birthday, but to present him with his hard-earned and well-deserved military service medals over six decades after his honorable discharge. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to salute and thank Mr. Suey W. Gee for his brave service to our country, and for his invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN S. WONG

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong of West Covina, California. Mr. Wong was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in April 1992 and served as mayor from 1997–1998. He is currently the mayor pro tempore and is completing his service to the city as an elected official this December.

Ms. Wong has a long history of service to the community with membership to various organizations and boards. He is a member of the West Covina Lyons (1981–1994); Board of Directors and former President of the Chamber of Commerce; the Queen of the Valley Foundation; the Queen of the Valley Men's Club; the Intercommunity Medical Center Men's Club, member of the 2100 Club; and First Federal Savings and Loan of San Gabriel Valley Board of Directors, 1991–present.

Mr. Wong's service to the residents of West Covina includes a broad spectrum of boards and municipal organizations, all of which address issues of commerce, urban development and revitalization. This service includes the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board; Citizens Committee on Public Services and Facilities; Police Commander Interview Board; San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board Member, 1992–present; vice president from 1993–1994; and Foothill Transit Executive Board Member, 1994–present.

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Wong is a devoted and loving husband to his wife Deborah of 26 years and father to his three children: Courtney, Justin and Adam. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.